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Wilder, Robert P

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# STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

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# In Brief Review

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Since the origin of the Student Volunteer Movement over 10,000 of its members have sailed for the foreign mission field. Of these about 2,200 have sailed during the last quadrennium.

## **The Foreign Mission Boards and the Movement:**

That the Movement enjoys the fullest confidence of the boards is shown by various resolutions passed by the Foreign Missions Conference made up of representatives from the Foreign Mission Boards of North America. The following is quoted from an article by Alfred W. Moore, a missionary under the Presbyterian Board, appearing in an issue of "All the World":

For years the Candidate Departments of the Foreign Mission Boards have depended almost entirely upon this Movement for their new missionaries. Its work has been wonderful. . . . Much of my work this year has been done in co-operation with the Student Volunteer Movement. Throughout the year I have experienced a constantly deepening admiration for the work of this great movement. It is very stimulating to the imagination to know that in almost every institution of higher learning in this country there is a little organized band of earnest young men and women, with their faces deliberately set toward the foreign field, silently working away on their campuses, pressing the cause of Foreign Missions and urging the best students to enter its service. I do not think it any exaggeration to say that if it had not been for the Student Volunteer Movement the whole foreign mission enterprise would not be half as advanced as it is today.

## **Missionary Candidates:**

At the present time even if missionary work throughout the world were not increased the approximate number which would be needed each year to replace those who have died, or who have had to return to the home countries because of health or other reasons, is about 1,200 from all Protestant evangelical mission agencies of Canada and the United States. Along with these calls comes increasing emphasis on the raising of standards of qualifications of candidates. Never before have we realized so strongly the importance of placing our emphasis on the spiritual preparation of prospective missionaries.

The Candidate Secretaries give special attention to finding suitable candidates for specific calls which come from the various church agencies.

## **Educational Work:**

Through the educational work the Movement seeks to awaken the interest of college students in the need and opportunities for Christian service and cooperation all over the world. Suggestive material and lists of the best and most recent books on international and missionary themes are made available for responsible leaders in the colleges. This year, by way of providing students with an intelligent background for the opening addresses of the Quadrennial Convention there have been prepared four discussion courses on International Problems, Racial Relations, Economic Problems, and Youth and Renaissance Movements. A special book dealing with changing aspects of missionary service has been prepared for the use of Convention delegates and Volunteers. Several new pamphlets on various phases of the missionary enterprise are also in press.

## **Traveling Secretaries:**

Perhaps no phase of our work more truly represents the spirit and purpose of the Movement than that of our traveling secretaries. Most of them come directly from college and seminary and are themselves under appointment to the Mission Field. They are able, therefore, through their visits to the Colleges, to interpret to students in their own language the work of the Movement, to give their own reasons for volunteering for foreign service, and to challenge students to think in terms of world need in the face of the present-day conditions. Apart from the Student Volunteers themselves, they are the largest factor in recruiting for the foreign mission fields.



## Student Volunteer Conferences:

Every year approximately 10,000 students are brought face to face with the foreign missionary enterprise through conferences held by the Student Volunteer Unions throughout the country. Thirty-nine of these conferences were held during the past college year. These gatherings exert a far reaching influence not only in the way of leading many students to become foreign missionaries but in creating an intelligent and active interest on the part of those who stay at the home base.

## Student Volunteer Council:

This Council is made up of two representatives (a man and a woman) from each of the 41 State and Sectional Student Volunteer Unions. The membership changes each year. The Council meets once a year to review the work of the Movement, to make suggestions as to how the work can be carried on more effectively and to nominate fifteen student members of the Executive Committee.

Most helpful and constructive recommendations have been made to the Executive Committee regarding recruiting, finance, the work of traveling secretaries, missionary education, the further development of democracy within the Movement, the Quadrennial Convention, and fuller cooperation with headquarters secretaries.

## The Bulletin:

The Bulletin, a 32-page magazine, has been published quarterly during the college year. It is not only the "trade journal" of the Student Volunteer, but is also of special value to all others interested in missionary activities among students at home and abroad. The January number contains the list of workers needed by the Mission Boards. Upon the recommendation of the Student Volunteer Council the Bulletin will be published eight times during the college year—October to May. This change becomes effective January 1924.

## Finances:

The year just closed presented real problems and in their solution we have every reason to thank God and take courage for the future. Friends have stood loyally by the Movement during this difficult time. The Student Volunteers now in college have provided a larger amount than for any previous year. Approximately one-third of our budget in the past three years has been provided for by subscriptions from students. This is a striking evidence of their confidence in the Movement.

Budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1924 .....\$95,850.00

The distribution of this amount worked out on a percentage basis, is as follows:

Salaries: { 16 Secretaries .....	\$35,080.00	36.62%
{ 20 Clerical Force .....	25,695.00	26.81%
Rent and upkeep .....	3,800.00	3.96%
Stationery, Supplies and Sundries .....	1,750.00	1.83%
Exchange and Interest .....	400.00	.41%
Traveling Expenses .....	13,000.00	13.57%
Conferences and Committee Meetings .....	2,000.00	2.09%
Postage .....	2,300.00	2.39%
Printing .....	2,875.00	2.99%
Telegrams and Telephone .....	1,240.00	1.29%
Equipment .....	1,005.00	1.05%
Bulletin (eight issues) .....	4,005.00	4.18%
Literature .....	2,500.00	2.61%
Appropriations—Com. of Reference & Counsel and Federation of Women's Boards....	200.00	.20%
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	\$95,850.00	100.00%

The Movement has no endowment or invested funds. It is made possible entirely by voluntary contributions. In supporting this Movement, therefore, one is not only helping his own Board, but also the Boards of other denominations in this matter of finding the men and women in the colleges whom God wants to serve Him as foreign missionaries.

ROBERT P. WILDER  
General Secretary



